

REMARKS

Status

A Request for Continued Examination is enclosed, along with a petition for a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action. The fee for the RCE and the extension is enclosed. If any other fee is required, or any other petition is needed to have this Amendment and Response considered, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge deposit account number 07-1700, and this is a conditional petition for such relief.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17, 18, and 21-25 were pending. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17, 18, and 21-25 were rejected. Applicant's attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed and specific Office Action.

Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, and 21, and cancel claims 23 – 25. Upon entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-12, 14, 17, 18, and 21-22 will be pending.

Amendments to the specification and FIG. 6 of the drawings are also presented. No new matter has been added.

Drawing Corrections

In paragraph 1 and 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested that Figure 6 be amended to show further details as described in the specification. In Response, Applicant submits an amendment to the drawings in the form of a replacement sheet for FIG. 6. This sheet shows more detail of the claimed process described in the specification, as requested in the Office Action.

Specification Amendments

In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested Amendments to the specification to correct typographical errors. Amendments above made to the specification at the paragraphs cited by the Examiner should address these informalities.

Rejections under §112(2)

In paragraphs 10-15, the Examiner rejected claims as indefinite. Applicant has made amendments to the claims as requested in the Office Action. Specifically, with regard to paragraph 14, the Applicant has added language to claims 1, 7, and 14 to clarify that subsequent characters can be substituted for the first character.

In paragraph 16, the Office Action rejected claims 1, 7, and 14 as incomplete. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection, but in order to advance prosecution, Applicant amended the claims to address the issues raised in the Office Action. For example, in claim 1, Applicant has added the language “to read a character occurring immediately subsequent to the first character in the input sequence of characters to determine whether a compression code was already assigned to the first character and the subsequent character and if not to assign a compression code, and to generate an output sequence of characters ~~representing the first character comprising the assigned a compression code defined during processing.~~” Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments should address the concerns raised in the Office Action.

Rejections under §112(1)

In paragraphs 17-20, the Examiner rejects claims 5 and 12 as lacking enablement. Applicant has amended the claims to recite a “a predefined maximum bit length,” which should address the rejection raised in the Office Action.

Rejections under § 103

In discussion at paragraphs 6-8 and 24-45, the Office Action, pending claims were rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,597,812 to Fallon.

As the Office Action admits, however, Fallon does not teach or suggest determining “whether a character corresponds to either one of white image data and black image data” and using an appropriate compression technique upon such determination. The Office Action states at paragraph 28 that “[t]he compression methodology of [Fallon03] is not shown to have specific applicability to image data.” There therefore is no suggestion in Fallon to consider such image data, nor is there any suggestion that such a technique would be suited for use with image data,

and in particular with black or white image data. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over Fallon.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application and claims in light of this Amendment and Response, and respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Please continue to direct all correspondence to:

AGFA Corporation
Law & Patent Department
200 Ballardvale Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Customer No. 21013

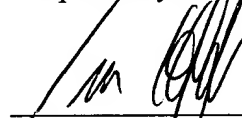
Date: June 1, 2005

Reg. No.: 41,059

Tel. No.: (617) 570-1777

Fax No.: (617) 523-1231

Respectfully submitted,



Ira V. Heffan
Attorney for the Applicant
Goodwin Procter LLP
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

2491603